

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W

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R 080607Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5271

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUJUMBURA 0188/1

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TAGS: OEXC, BY

SUBJECT: FY-76 U.S. PROFESSOR PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 49425, (B) BUJUMBURA 122, (C) 75 BUJUMBURA 342,  
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1. SINCE 1974-5 ACADEMIC YEAR, MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED IN THE STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS OF BURUNDI'S HIGHER EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WHICH HAVE FUNDAMENTALLY INFLUENCED THE UNIVERSITY'S ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAM AND THE WAYS IN WHICH FULBRIGHT LECTURERS CAN BE MOST REASONABLY AND VALUABLY EMPLOYED.

2. LAST JUNE, THE FUSION INTO THE NEW "UNIVERSITY OF BURUNDI" OF THE "OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY OF BUJUMBURA" AND THE NATIONAL TEACHER'S COLLEGE (ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE) WAS ANNOUNCED. ENGLISH TEACHING STAFFS OF BOTH INSTITUTIONS WERE SUDDENLY ASKED TO DRAW UP A NEW FOUR-YEAR COURSE OF STUDY WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A DEGREE ("LICENCE") IN ENGLISH. FUSION OF TWO INSTITUTIONS BECAME OFFICIAL IN OCTOBER 1975, AND ENGLISH TEACHERS FROM BOTH INSTITUTIONS JOINED FORCES TO CARRY OUT THE NEW INTEGRATED ENGLISH PROGRAM. DURING CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, THIS HAS MEANT THE ADDITION OF A NEW FOURTH YEAR CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS WHO HAD JUST FINISHED THE THREE YEAR PROGRAM AT THE NATIONAL TEACHERS COLLEGE, AND THE ADDITION OF A NEW THIRD YEAR CURRICULUM FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHO PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED THEIR

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STUDIES AFTER ONLY TWO YEARS. FOR THE UPCOMING 1976-77

ACADEMIC YEAR, ADDITIONAL FOURTH YEAR CURRICULUM MUST BE PREPARED FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AS THEY PROCEED THROUGH THE LAST YEAR OF THE NEW FOUR-YEAR CYCLE.

3. THESE INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES HAVE GREATLY INCREASED WORK LOADS FOR ALL ENGLISH PROFESSORS DURING THE CURRENT 1975-76 ACADEMIC YEAR. THREE TEACHING HOURS HAVE HAD TO BE ADDED FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS MAJORING IN ENGLISH (IN THE UNIVERSITY'S NEW FOUR YEAR "LICENCE" PROGRAM). IN THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS, ADDITION OF A THIRD YEAR FOR THE 1975-76 PERIOD HAS ACCOUNTED FOR SIX ADDITIONAL HOURS OF ENGLISH (MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE DEPARTURE LAST YEAR OF A PART TIME ECONOMICS FACULTY ENGLISH TEACHER, WHOSE SIX HOURS HAVE HAD TO BE ABSORBED BY OTHER TEACHERS). MOST DEMANDING CHANGE IN TERMS OF WORK LOAD HAS BEEN THE ADDITION OF A FOURTH YEAR OF STUDIES FOR ALL STUDENTS WHO AIM TO BECOME FUTURE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHERS. FOR THEM, THE NEW PROGRAM, WHICH, OWING TO PRACTICE TEACHING AND SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS, HAS RESULTED IN INCREASE OF ABOUT 40 HOURS FOR THE ENGLISH TEACHING STAFF. SIX FULL TIME ENGLISH PROFESSORS (TWO FULBRIGHT AMERICANS, ONE BRITISH COUNCIL ENGLISH, ONE BURUNDIAN TRAINED IN UNITED STATES, AND TWO BELGIANS), EACH AVERAGING ALMOST 20 CLASSROOM HOURS PER WEEK, ONE VOLUNTEER (AN EMBASSY WIFE WHO TEACHES SIX HOURS), NOW CARRY THIS HEAVY TEACHING LOAD.

4. FOR THE UPCOMING 1976-77 ACADEMIC YEAR, IN ADDITION TO CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT YEAR'S GREATLY AUGMENTED WORK LOAD, SOME STUDENTS PRESENTLY IN SECOND YEAR, ARE TO BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE FOUR YEAR "LICENCE" PROGRAM IN ENGLISH, REQUIRING FOUR ADDITIONAL TEACHING HOURS. ALSO, THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS WILL BE INITIATING ITS FOURTH YEAR CYCLE WHICH WILL REQUIRE AN EXTRA THREE HOURS ENGLISH TEACHING. (EVEN IF THESE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET NEXT YEAR, THE PRESENT ENGLISH STAFF STILL CANNOT HOPE TO MEET THE FACULTY OF LAW'S PROGRAM REQUIREMENT FOR 12 HOURS OF ENGLISH).

5. WHEN CROCKER BEGAN THE 74-75 ACADEMIC YEAR, THERE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NO UNIVERSITY ENGLISH PROGRAM, AND NO COURSE MATERIALS, EXCEPT FOR A FEW REFERENCE BOOKS. (THE BURUNDIAN TITULAR HEAD OF ENGLISH PROGRAM WAS ALONE IN PROVIDING THE ONLY UPPER LEVEL ENGLISH INSTRUCTION IN BURUNDI, AT THE NATIONAL TEACHERS COLLEGE DURING 1973). SINCE THEN EACH ENGLISH TEACHER, WHOSE JOINT EFFORTS PROVIDE ABOUT 115 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION FOR CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, HAS HAD TO DEVELOP HIS OWN COURSES FROM PERSONAL RESOURCE

MATERIALS AND INITIATIVE, INCLUDING SCROUNGING STENCILS AND TYPING THEM OUT IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE COURSE MATERIALS TO STUDENTS. THUS, CROCKER AND PONASIK HAVE FOCUSED ON MEETING NEEDS OF UPPER LEVEL ECONOMICS AND SCIENCE STUDENTS, AND FUTURE TEACHERS OF ENGLISH. BOTH HAVE PREPARED THEIR COURSES SO THAT THE MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THEIR SUCCESSORS FOR CLASSROOM USE.

6. AS UNDERScored REFTel B, PROSPECTS ARE POOR FOR ADEQUATELY STAFFING 1976-77 ACADEMIC YEAR UNIVERSITY OF BURUNDI ENGLISH PROGRAM. CONCERNING PRESENT STAFF OF SEVEN, ONLY THREE ARE SURE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR FULL ACADEMIC YEAR OF 76-77. THIS INCLUDES ONE OF TWO CURRENT FULBRIGHT TEACHERS, THE BURUNDIAN, ONE OF TWO BELGIANS (NOW BOTH FUNDED BY BELGIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE). THE SECOND BELGIAN NOW SAYS THAT HE WILL PROBABLY LEAVE UNIVERSITY AT END OF CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, AND MAY NOT BE REPLACED. THE BRITISH COUNCIL TEACHER WILL LEAVE AT THE END OF ACADEMIC YEAR, AND IS NOT SCHEDULED TO BE REPLACED, THOUGH BRITISH COUNCIL HAS HELD OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A LAST MINUTE REPRIEVE. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY VOLUNTEER WIFE WILL BE LEAVING NEXT SPRING. AND TO TOP IT OFF, THE BURUNDIAN ENGLISH TEACHER, THE TITULAR HEAD

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R 080607Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5272

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OF UNIVERSITY ENGLISH PROGRAM, THOUGH GOOD TEACHER, IS A VERY POOR ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED LITTLE CONTROL OVER, OR INITIATIVE IN GUIDING, THE PROGRAM. THUS, SUCCESS OF THE UNIVERSITY ENGLISH PROGRAM DEPENDS ON THE CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF INDIVIDUALLY WELL-QUALIFIED AND MOTIVATED PROFESSORS, WHICH BOTH OF OUR

FULBRIGHTERS HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN, AND WHICH FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IS CAPABLE OF SUPPLYING.

7. IN BUJUMBURA'S REFTEL C REPLY TO 75 STATE 116519, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT SENIOR STAFF PEOPLE AT UNIVERSITY, AND CROCKER, WERE AGAINST HER TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM REACHING, OWING TO PRESSING NEED FOR HER IN CLASSROOM (EVEN BEFORE MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES MENTIONED ABOVE). AT THAT TIME, CROCKER SUGGESTED INFORMALLY THAT SHE TAKE ON CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT WORK ON HALF-TIME BASIS. PRESENTLY, OWING TO CONDITIONS DESCRIBED PARA 5, COURSE AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (THOUGH AT UNIVERSITY, NOT LOWER, LEVEL) IS CONSUMING WELL OVER HALF CROCKER'S AND PONASIK'S TIME, AS WELL AS MORE THAN HALF THE WORKING HOURS OF OTHER ENGLISH TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS. RESPONDING TO REFTEL A, WE SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THERE DOES NOT EXIST ANY PRE-SECONDARY LEVEL ENGLISH PROGRAM IN BURUNDI. ENGLISH TEXTS AND SUPPORT MATERIALS WERE ADOPTED IN 1971 FOR COUNTRY-WIDE USE IN BURUNDI'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH BRITISH COUNCIL AID. REVISIONS IN USE OF TEXTS ARE PROBABLY IN THE OFFING, BUT PROGRAM IS RUNNING ALONG FAIRLY WELL NOW. ALSO, THERE WAS NOTHING IN REFTEL A TO SUGGEST THAT ADDITIONAL) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FULBRIGHTER WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR ONLY, REPEAT ONLY, ONE YEAR, AND ENGLISH DEVELOPMENT PLANS AT THE UNIVERSITY, THROUGH NO FAULT OF PLANNERS, HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED AROUND EXPECTATION THAT PRESENT LEVEL OF AT LEAST TWO TEACHERS WILL BE CONTINUED.

8. EVEN WITHOUT LOSS OF A FULBRIGHTER, UNIVERSITY'S WELL-FOUNDED ENGLISH PROGRAM WILL HAVE TOUGH SLEDDING OWING TO OTHER STAFF DEPARTURES. WITH LOSS OF FULBRIGHTER, PROGRAM COULD BE CRIPPLED. I BELIEVE THAT EFFECTIVE EXPANSION OF KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH AMONG ELITE IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS, BECAUSE WITHOUT A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH, MEMBERS OF THE ELITE ARE CUT OFF FROM PARTICIPATION IN MANY STUDY, VISIT CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES IN U.S. AND OTHER ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES. THUS I EARNESTLY URGE THAT DEPARTMENT SQUEEZE ENOUGH FUNDS FROM ITS TIGHT BUDGET TO LET US KEEP OUR SECOND FULBRIGHT POSITION.  
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